

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended): A method to recover one or more fluorescent- individual desired living cells separate from any non-fluorescent undesired cells from a in a sample of tissue, which method comprises mechanically, using expression of a first fluorescent protein in the desired cells as a guide, separating from the sample of tissue one or more desired living cells that produce a fluorescent protein from any undesired cells in the surrounding tissue that do not produce said first fluorescent protein using surgical procedures,

thereby recovering one or more desired living cells that produce said first fluorescent protein separate from any undesired cells that do not produce said first fluorescent protein.

2. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the cells that produce the first fluorescent protein are tumor cells.

3-4. (canceled)

5. (original): The method of claim 2, wherein the tumor cells are metastatic tumor cells of the lung, bone, lymph node or liver.

6. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the first fluorescent protein is a green fluorescent protein or a red fluorescent protein.

7. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein said one or more living desired cells recovered consists of a single living cell.

8. (previously presented): The method of claim 2, wherein said cells that produce said first fluorescent protein are present in an immunocompromised laboratory animal.

9. (previously presented): The method of claim 8, which further comprises transferring cells that produce said first fluorescent protein to at least one additional immunocompromised animal.

10. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, which further comprises subjecting the recovered one or more desired living cells ~~that produce said first fluorescent protein~~ to gene expression analysis.

11. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein said undesired cells contained in the tissue ~~that do not produce the first fluorescent protein~~ produce a second fluorescent protein that emits a different wavelength from the first fluorescent protein.

12. (new): The method of claim 1, wherein the sample is contained in a living animal.